

CLAIMS

1. A transporting accessory for a vehicle, the transporting accessory comprising:  
a base frame mountable to the vehicle, the base frame having two support  
members;
- 5 a second frame having two extension members, each extension member slidably  
borne by a respective one of the support members, each extension member having at least  
one guide device and being movable along a path of travel between a first, retracted  
position and a second, extended position;
- a carriage pivotally mounted to the second frame, the carriage having at least one  
10 arm, the at least one arm having at least one guide device, the carriage movable between a  
first, substantially parallel position and a second, inclined position; and
- 15 a transport support at least one track, the at least one track slidably borne by the at  
least one guide device of the carriage, the transport support being movable along a path of  
travel between a first, retracted position and a second, extended position and positioned  
such that the transport support contacts at least one guide device of each extention member  
when the transport device is in the retracted position.
2. The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a drive  
assembly operable to move the extension members between the first, retracted position and  
20 the second, extended position.
3. The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 2, further comprising an actuating  
mechanism coupled to the second frame and the carriage, the actuating mechanism  
operable to pivot the carriage.

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4. The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 3, wherein the actuating mechanism is a electric actuator.
  
5. The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a drive assembly operable to move the extension members between the first, retracted position and the second, extended position.

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6. A transporting accessory for a vehicle, the transporting accessory comprising:  
a base frame mountable to the vehicle, the base frame having two support  
members;  
a second frame having two extension members, each extension member including  
5 at least one roller slidably borne by a respective one of the support members, each  
extension member movable along a path of travel between a first, retracted position and a  
second, extended position;  
a carriage pivotally mounted to the second frame, the carriage having two parallel  
side arms, each side arm having at least one roller;  
10 a transport support having two tracks, each track slidably borne by the at least one  
roller of one of the two parallel side arms, the transport support being movable along a  
path of travel between a first, retracted position and a second, extended position;  
a drive assembly operable to move the extension members between the first,  
retracted position and the second, extended position; and  
15 an actuating mechanism coupled to the second frame and the carriage, the actuating  
mechanism operable to move the transport support between the first, retracted position and  
the second, extended position.
7. The transporting accessory as claimed in claim 6, wherein the actuating mechanism  
20 is a electric actuator.

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8. A transporting accessory for a vehicle, the transporting accessory comprising:
- a base frame mountable to the vehicle, the base frame having two support members;
  - a second frame having two extension members, each extension member including
  - 5 at least one roller slidably borne by a respective one of the support members, each extension member movable along a path of travel between a first, retracted position and a second, extended position;
  - a carriage pivotally mounted to the second frame, the carriage having two parallel side arms, each side arm having at least one roller;
  - 10 a transport support having two tracks, each track slidably borne by the at least one roller of one of the two parallel side arms, the transport support being movable along a path of travel between a first, retracted position and a second, extended position; and
  - a drive assembly operable to move the extension members between the first, retracted position and the second, extended position and move the transport support
  - 15 between the first, retracted position and the second, extended position.

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9. A method of loading and unloading cargo into and from a transporting accessory for a vehicle, the method comprising:

mounting a base frame of the transporting accessory to the vehicle, the base frame having two support members;

5 positioning the cargo into a transport support of the transporting accessory, activating a drive assembly a first time to move two extension members of a second frame of the transporting accessory along a telescoping path of travel with respect to the base frame between a first, retracted position and a second, extended position;

activating an actuating mechanism a first time to pivot a carriage and to move a  
10 transport support along a transport support path of travel between a first, retracted position and a second, extended position, the actuating mechanism being coupled to the second frame and a carriage, the carriage being pivotally mounted to the second frame;

activating the actuating mechanism a second time to pivot the carriage to cause the transport support to move along the transport support path of travel between the second, 15 extended position and the first, retracted position; and

activating the drive assembly a second time to move the two extension members along the telescoping path of travel between the second, extended position and the first, retracted position.

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